THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d): Government delegated the powers of resitement of retail outlets/LPG distributorships subject to certain norms to oil marketing companies vide letter dated 3.9.1998.

However, as per the existing policy the deserving cases, which are not strictly covered under the guidelines may be referred by the Oil Companies to the Government for decision. Decision is taken on the merits of each case.

Complaints by HAPDA

2389. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state

(a) whether Haryana Petroleum Dealers Association (HPDA) has made some complaint against field officer of Bharat Petroleum Corporation posted at Panipat area regarding various malpractices and dictatorial attitude;

(b) whether the matter has been investigated and the name of authority—officer conducting independent inquiry has been named;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what is the formula for increasing dealers Commission due to increase in price hike and number of time it was applied?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) received a complaint from the Haryana Petroleum Dealers Association alleging various malpractices and dictatorial attiude against the Field Officers of BPCL in Panipat area. The complaint was investigated by the Chief Distribution Manager (North) of the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.

(d) the formula for revising the Dealers' Commission to neutralise the effect of price hike in prices of MS/HSD is as under:

$$Cr = Co + \frac{Pr - Po \; XF}{100}$$

Where pr and Po are the revised and original product prices; Cr and Co are the revised and original dealers commission, and F the per KL factor to be applied for commission on MS/HSD in the various slab. The revision in

commission by applying the approved formula has been implemented 5 times.

Development of Small and Medium sized oil fields in Assam

2390. DR. (SMT.) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of those small, medium sized oil and gas fields in Assam that had since been developed and offered for production by private sector in 1992/1993; and

(b) what is the status of contract signed and production thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) The Government has awarded one small sized field, namely Amguri field, in Assam for development and production of oil and gas from this field by private parties under the second offer of discovered fields, 1993. The Production Sharing Contract has not been signed so far.

Oil reserves in Saurashtra region of Gujarat

2391. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVASHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is oil reserve in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat including Kutchh areas;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted to assess the possible location of oil reserve in the region together with outcome of survey; and

(c) whether Government have any plan with regard to conducting such surveys in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) The exploration efforts so far have not established any commercial discovery of oil or gas reserves in Saurashtra region of Gujarat and Kutchh area.

(c) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Oil India Ltd. (OIL) and some private companies have taken up work programmes for acquisition of seismic data, megneto-Telluric (MT) surveys and drilling of exploratory wells in the above region for exploration of hydrocarbons.